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'IT'S REALLY SCARY FOR ME'

The surreal is real — 'We have to separate you now'

S.F. man learns he's positive for COVID-19 after hellish end to cruise

RANDY VAZQUEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gene Qin looks out from the window of his hotel room where he is being quarantined after testing positive for the coronavirus at the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott in San Carlos on Wednesday.

By Julia Prodis Sulek
jsulek@bayareanewsgroup.com

SAN CARLOS » The news came with a knock on the hotel room door.

Gene Qin and his wife, Diana, both in their 70s and former passengers on the ill-fated Grand Princess cruise ship, had been waiting with dread in their quarantined room at the Fairfield Inn.

Wearing masks, Diana opened the door Tuesday afternoon with Gene standing right beside her. A doctor and nurse, both in yellow protective garb and plastic shields covering their faces, got right to the point.

"We have your tests results back," the doctor said, looking toward Gene. "Your wife is negative, and you are positive.

"We have to separate you now."

The diagnoses sent a chill through the San Francisco couple. Married 35 years, they had been con-

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INSIDE
Hospitals prepare for onslaught of COVID-19 patients. **B1**

Qin and his wife, Diana Gong, pose in a vacation photo from Hawaii. The couple were on the Grand Princess cruise ship and are quarantined in a hotel in San Carlos.

COURTESY OF GENE QIN

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Shelter orders prompt questions

Enforcement up as cases rise; Gun shop, bar, pool cleaner among businesses shut down

By Casey Tolan, Maggie Angst, Angela Ruggiero and Leonardo Castañeda
Staff writers

As the Bay Area hunkered down for the second day of life under unprecedented shelter-in-place orders Wednesday, officials fielded a flood of questions about what residents are allowed to do and closed a few businesses that weren't complying.

Many in the region wrestled with tough questions about the gray areas in the pages-long orders designed to combat the spread of coronavirus. Officials and law enforcement shut down businesses from a gun shop in San Jose to a bar in El Sobrante to a pool-cleaning business in Marin, while some counties concluded that bike shops were essential enough to keep their doors open.

"We're building this engine as the car is racing down the road," San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said Wednesday. "Collectively, we're going to be pivoting and tweaking as we learn more information."

VIRUS » PAGE 6

INSIDE
Californians laid off because of coronavirus can tap extra week of benefits; stocks whipsaw back to losses. **C7**

DEFIANCE OF COUNTY ORDER?

Tesla tells employees to come to work

HR director says the company has received 'conflicting guidance'

By Rex Crum and David DeBolt
Staff writers

Tesla on Wednesday told employees on its production line that they should continue coming to work in an apparent defiance of a county order to suspend manufacturing operations on its electric cars amid a Bay Area-wide shelter-in-place order aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

In an email sent to Tesla employees Wednesday morning and obtained by this news organization, Valerie Workman, Tesla's human relations leader in North America, said that the company had received "conflicting guid-

TESLA » PAGE 3

INSIDE
Coronavirus crisis forcing sports-talk hosts to reinvent themselves. **C1**

'A BIG EXPERIMENT'

Virus throws schools a learning curve

Districts working on options for students as classrooms are closed

By John Woolfolk, Martha Ross and Judith Prieve
Staff writers

Bay Area schools had billed this week's coronavirus closures as a sort of extended spring break, but Gov. Gavin Newsom's reality check Tuesday night — that shutdowns to slow the disease's spread could last until summer — has left them scrambling to process what that might mean for student learning.

The tech-rich Bay Area, where many students already do assignments on computers at home, is perhaps better positioned than most to teach students online for an extended time. But some schools — particularly in wealthy communities — are further ahead than others, and few have tried to teach so much online for so long.

"It's going to be a big experiment," said a fifth grade teacher at a Silicon Valley school Wednesday, who is not

SCHOOL » PAGE 9

DAI SUGANO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Adrienne Hughes Barber, a second grade teacher in the Milpitas Unified School District and parent of an 11-year-old, poses for a webcam portrait on Wednesday.

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